UNITED NATIONS **A**

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Item 114 (b) of the preliminary list*

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

Letter dated 18 April 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement issued on 16 April 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union on Cameroon.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 114 (b) of the preliminary list.

(Signed) N. H. BIEGMAN
Permanent Representative of the
Netherlands to the United Nations

* A/52/50.

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ANNEX

[Original: English and French]

Statement issued on 16 April 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union on Cameroon

The European Union has taken note of the decision of the President of the Republic of Cameroon to organize general elections in May 1997.

The European Union expressed the desire that these elections take place in a calm and transparent manner, and in particular that every citizen should be able to vote freely and without hindrance. It considers it essential that every citizen should be able to take part in the elections in order to choose a new parliament which corresponds to the aspirations of the people, while respecting the rules of democracy.

In this connection, the European Union has noted with interest the Cameroon authorities' invitation for international observers to be sent. It has examined the possibility of responding to this invitation. It would point out that, in accordance with international practice, such observers must carry out their mission throughout the duration of the electoral process, particularly during the counting of votes and publication of results, in complete freedom and independence.

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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING
OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 18 April 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on Zaire made on 10 April 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 82 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) N. H. BIEGMAN
Permanent Representative
of the Netherlands to
the United Nations

* A/52/50.

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ANNEX

[Original: English and French]

Statement on Zaire made on 10 April 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union

The European Union has learned with great concern of the latest political developments in Zaire. It calls upon all parties concerned in Kinshasa to show the necessary restraint and to respect the basic terms of the democratic transition process. The Union hopes that order in the capital will be maintained in a peaceful manner.

The Union calls upon all the parties to the conflict in Zaire to engage fully in the search for a speedy political solution and to refrain immediately from further violence. In this regard, the Union repeats its support for the peace plan of the joint United Nations/Organization of African Unity Special Representative for the Great Lakes region, Ambassador Mohamed Sahnoun. The present developments underscore the importance of a political solution to the conflict. The Union reiterates its support for the process of democratic transition, leading towards elections, as the only road towards a peaceful and stable situation.

As fighting proceeds in different parts of the country, the Union appeals to all parties to respect the rights of the civilian population, to ensure the safety of foreign citizens and, if necessary, to facilitate their evacuation.

The European Union stresses the most urgent need for humanitarian assistance to reach refugees and displaced persons.

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DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 18 April 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on Angola made on 11 April 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 82 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) N. H. BIEGMAN
Permanent Representative of
the Netherlands to
the United Nations

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97-10698 (E) 210497 210497

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ANNEX

[Original: English and French]

Statement on Angola made on 11 April 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union

The European Union welcomes the formation of the new Angolan Government of Unity and National Reconciliation, which was officially sworn in on 11 April 1997. This event marks an important step in the peace process initiated in Lisbon in 1991 and renewed in Lusaka in 1994, and sets Angola on the promising path of development for the benefit of all Angolans.

The European Union addresses to the new Government of Angola its most cordial wishes for a successful outcome to the peace process and assures the Government of its desire to cooperate actively in the recovery of a reconciled Angola.

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Letter dated 18 April 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement issued on 10 April 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union regarding Iran.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 82 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) N. H. BIEGMAN
Permanent Representative of the
Netherlands to the United Nations

* A/52/50.

97-10733 (E) 220497 220497 230497

ANNEX

[Original: English and French]

Statement issued on 10 April 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union concerning Iran

The findings of the Superior Court of Justice in Berlin in the so-called Mykonos case established the involvement of the Iranian authorities at the highest level.

The European Union condemns this involvement of the Iranian authorities and regards such behaviour as totally unacceptable in the conduct of international affairs.

The European Union has always wanted a constructive relationship with Iran, and the critical dialogue agreed upon at the European Council in December 1992 was designed to further that objective. However, no progress can be possible while Iran flouts international norms and indulges in acts of terrorism.

The Presidency has invited Member States to recall their ambassadors for coordinated consultation on the future relationship of the European Union with Iran. The European Union notes that under the present circumstances there is no basis for the continuation of the critical dialogue.

The Council, at its meeting of 29 April, will review the European Union's relations with Iran and decide what further action would be appropriate.

The European Union expects the Government of Iran to take measures against possible threats and accusations against any Member State and to take the necessary steps to safeguard the security of all European Union citizens and their institutions in Iran.

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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 18 April 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement issued on 14 April 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union on relations between Peru and Ecuador.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 82 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) N. H. BIEGMAN
Permanent Representative of the
Netherlands to the United Nations

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97-10739 (E) 220497 220497

ANNEX

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Statement issued on 14 April 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union on Peru/Ecuador relations

The European Union welcomes the fact that the Governments of Peru and Ecuador will meet on 15 April 1997 in Brasilia to begin substantive talks on their differences in relation to the border dispute between the two countries. It notes that this meeting, originally scheduled for 20 December 1996, had to be postponed owing to unforeseen circumstances in both countries.

The European Union attaches great importance to the meeting in Brasilia and consider it a historic opportunity to build further on the agreements of Quito and Santiago of February and November 1996, respectively. It expresses its conviction that the meeting in Brasilia will lay solid foundations for a definitive settlement of the dispute and the establishment of an enduring peace between Ecuador and Peru.

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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 18 April 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement issued on 17 April 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union on Sri Lanka.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 82 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) N. H. BIEGMAN
Permanent Representative of the
Netherlands to the United Nations

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ANNEX

[Original: English and French]

Statement issued on 17 April 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union on Sri Lanka

The European Union welcomes the exchange of letters between the President of Sri Lanka and the leader of the opposition on a bipartisan approach to the ethnic conflict in that country. The European Union congratulates the two Sri Lankan leaders on their political courage and far-sighted statesmanship.

The European Union believes that this exchange offers a constructive approach to the problems facing Sri Lanka and a promise of consistency for the future, regardless of changes in government. The European Union hopes that this exchange will be implemented in good faith and will contribute to a building of confidence between the different parties and to an ending of confrontational politics in Sri Lanka.

The European Union also hopes that the exchange will contribute to a national agreement to ensure peace and a lasting and fair settlement to the conflict, which has impeded the country's development and taken such a heavy toll of lives and resources among Sri Lankans of every origin.

The European Union shall assist, where possible, reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts in the north and east, in particular Jaffna, taking into account the prevailing conditions for successful implementation of reconstruction efforts in the peninsula.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated country Cyprus and the European Free Trade Association countries, Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this statement.

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COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS
AND THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY
AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE
MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING
OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 16 April 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you of the most recent gross violation by the armed forces of the Republic or Armenia of the ceasefire regime that has been in effect in the region of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict for almost three years.

On 15 April 1997, a delegation of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), which is the main mediator in the conflict, headed by Mr. Andrzej Kasprzyk, Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office of OSCE, and consisting of the Personal Representative's field assistant, Col. M. Hoholacek, and other officials, came under fire by the Armenian side. They were visiting the region on an official mission to monitor the compliance by the parties to the conflict with the ceasefire regime.

The Armenian side opened indiscriminate fire on the international team of mediators in spite of the agreement reached earlier between OSCE and the parties to the conflict allowing the former to conduct this mission.

This impudent provocation testifies once again to the unwillingness of Armenia, which continues to occupy more than 20 per cent of Azerbaijan's

* A/52/50.

territory, to pursue the path of a political settlement of this tragic conflict and definitely puts in further jeopardy the already fragile peace process.

In this connection I have the honour to forward to you herewith the text of a press release issued on 16 April 1997 by the Press Service of the Ministry of Defence of the Azerbaijan Republic regarding the above-mentioned incident (see annex) and should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under items 40, 81 and 82 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Eldar G. KOULIEV
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Press release issued on 16 April 1997 by the Press Service of the Ministry of Defence of Azerbaijan

On 14 April 1997, Mr. Andrzej Kasprzyk, Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) on the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict, visited the region in order to monitor the situation on the front line.

On 15 April, Mr. Kasprzyk, accompanied by his field assistant, Col. M. Hoholacek, and other officials, came under fire between 3.05 and 3.15 p.m. in the Horadiz district while monitoring the compliance by the parties with the ceasefire in the vicinity of the troops on the line of confrontation.

Despite the agreement reached earlier on the conduct of this monitoring mission and ignoring both the OSCE insignia on the mission's vehicle and the OSCE flag, the Armenian side opened indiscriminate fire on the monitors, thus preventing them from accomplishing their task.

Mr. Kasprzyk admitted that, as a result of this action of the Armenian side, the ceasefire regime had been violated and that he himself and his team had become the targets. He stated that one could indeed speak about poor discipline in the Armenian army and the insubordination of certain armed units to the orders of the high command.

The Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office of OSCE called this outrageous act an extraordinary incident and indicated his intention to report it to the OSCE authorities.